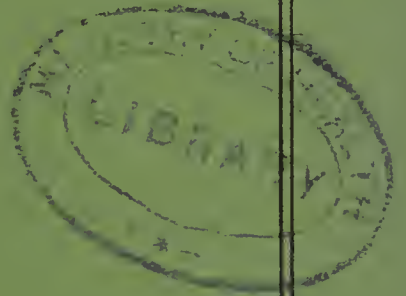


Urban District of Penarth



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE YEAR

1955

BY

D. TREVOR THOMAS

M.R.C.S. (Eng.), L.R.C.P. (Lond), D.P.H.

Urban District of Penarth



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE YEAR

1955

BY

D. TREVOR THOMAS

M.R.C.S. (Eng.), L.R.C.P. (Lond), D.P.H.

PENARTH URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Chairman :

Councillor Mrs. LILY ANN ROGERS, O.B.E., J.P.

Members :

COUN.	GEORGE WILSON COWLE	COUN.	J. E. KREIGER
..	QUENTIN EDWARD LEWIS	..	G. V. WILLIAMS, C.A.
..	HAROLD WILLIAM TOYE	..	JOHN JOSEPH MCCORMACK
..	E. VIVIAN ROGERS	..	WM. JONES, C.C.
..	ALFRED BROCKINGTON, J.P.	..	HAROLD R. BLUEMEL
		..	R. TOTTERDELL

Clerk to the Council :

P. METCALF, ESQ.

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

Chairman :

Councillor HAROLD REYNOLD BLUEMEL

Members :

All the Members of the Urban District Council.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF

Medical Officer of Health :

D. TREVOR THOMAS, M.R.C.S. (ENG.), L.R.C.P. (LOND.), D.P.H.
(Also Divisional Medical Officer, South East Glamorgan).

Senior Sanitary Inspector :

A H. MOUNTAIN, A.R.SAN.I., M.S.I.A., S.R.I.B.A.,
Cert. Meat Insp. Royal Sanitary Institute.

Additional Sanitary Inspector :

D. P. NOWELL, Cert. S.I.B., M.S.I.A.,
Cert. Meat Insp. Royal Sanitary Institute.

Clerical Staff :

A. S. POWELL
Miss K. M. HEWITT

Rodent Operator :

W. COOMBS

HOUSING OFFICE

Housing Manager :

T. D. BEDDOW

Deputy Housing Manager :

W. J. JONES

Health Department,
West House,
Stanwell Road,
Penarth.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS
OF THE PENARTH URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Mrs. Rogers and Gentlemen,

I beg to present my annual report for the year 1955 drawn up in accordance with Circular 17/55 (Wales) of the Welsh Board of Health.

The estimated population of the Urban District was 18,970 and the number of inhabited houses at the end of the year 5,443.

I have retained the Table giving certain interesting statistics concerning Penarth extracted from the Registrar General's Census of 1951 (Page 6).

Despite an increase in the number of deaths of infants under 12 months as compared with the previous year, there were only three districts in the County with a lower infantile mortality rate.

There were no alarming outbreaks of any specific infectious disease, but Acute Poliomyelitis made its appearance during the months of September and October, five persons in all being affected. Four proved to be Non-Paralytic in type, while the fifth (an adult male) unfortunately was left with a residual paralysis of his lower limbs.

During the same months, there were fifteen cases of mild Food Poisoning, apparently sporadic with no evidence of a simultaneous infection. The causative organisms isolated from the faeces being *Salmonella typhimurium*, the organism responsible for the greater majority of bacillary food poisoning in this country. Seven households were involved and in one instance only was there a connection between one household and another. Investigation revealed no indication of any suspected source of common infection. All these persons were kept under surveillance until laboratory examination failed to isolate the causative organisms. In the main this occurred within 6 to 8 weeks, but in one infant under twelve months the organisms continued to be excreted for over three months. Almost invariably due to a variety of causes, one is too late to seize and submit for bacteriological examination any suspected vehicle of infection.

Seventeen cases of bacillary dysentery (all sonne) occurred in nine households during the year, they were all clinically mild in

character, none being admitted to hospital. Many were symptomless and only discovered when specimens from contacts were submitted for bacteriological examination. The causative organisms appeared to be eliminated from the alimentary tract fairly quickly, particularly in those given antibiotics with this object in view.

With regard to the prevention of certain infectious diseases such as smallpox, diphtheria and whooping cough by vaccination or immunisation, I regret to state there is considerable apathy among the younger parents, few of whom have had any experience of these serious diseases and have developed a false sense of security. There is definite need for more intensive propaganda and personal persuasion by Health Officers, Medical Practitioners etc., to bring home to them the importance of active preventive measures. Not infrequently the fathers who seldom come into contact with the Health Visitors, appear to influence their wives against giving consent. I suspect that this is often due to the fathers taking a jaundiced view of their inoculation experiences in the forces.

In the field of Health Education, in addition to personal approach by Doctors, Health Visitors, Sanitary Inspectors and other officers concerned with health, much good work is being done by certain publications particularly "Family Doctor," (British Medical Association), which is available at the public library, and of course on the bookstalls, and "Better Health" (published by the Central Council for Health Education), copies of which are available at all the Maternity and Child Welfare Clinics. Television as expected, is proving a powerful and often subtle medium for propaganda and has immense potentiality in all aspects of disseminating knowledge.

In my last Annual Report, I referred to the welfare of old people and consequent on this many organisations and individuals expressed their willingness and eagerness to do something practical for the old and lonely. I have made an attempt to compile a list of elderly people, particularly those living alone, from various sources, even this has proved far from easy. Although the expected number is in the region of 500 or more, the number of names I have so far, falls very short of that figure.

It is hoped to have meetings of representatives of interested organisations and have a full discussion and decide what practical steps can be taken to meet some of the more pressing needs of the old and lonely.

Due to a variety of causes, only fifteen houses were completed and twenty five partly completed during the year. One of the factors being the exceptionally hard winter of 1954/55 interfering with the preparation of the building sites.

No action was taken under Section 47 of the National Assistance Act 1948, during the year i.e., the compulsory removal on a Court Order of persons "who are unable to devote to themselves and are not receiving from other persons, proper care and attention."

In conclusion, I wish to thank all members of the Council, the Chief Officials and in particular the staff of the department for loyal co-operation throughout the year.

I am,

Your Obedient Servant,

D. TREVOR THOMAS.
Medical Officer of Health.

EXTRACT FROM 1951 CENSUS

	Average number of persons per room.	Percentage of persons living at more than 2 per room.	Percentage of persons living at more than 2 per room.	Households percentage sharing a dwelling.	* Households with all five arrangements.	Households sharing all five arrangements.
	All Dwellings	Shared Dwellings	1931	1951	%	%
GLAMORGAN	0.74	0.97	5.35	2.16	22	40
PENARTH	0.67	0.84	3.31	1.27	30	53
CARDIFF	0.77	0.93	5.40	2.47	36	48
RHONDDA	0.71	1.00	4.93	2.19	24	16
						2

* All five arrangements.

Piped water.

Cooking Stove.

Kitchen Sink.

Water Closet.

Wired Bath

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS

Area (including fore-shore)	.....	2,384 acres
Population (census 1951)	.....	18,528
Population (mid-year 1955)	.....	18,970
Number of inhabited houses	.....	5,443
Rateable value	.....	£146,805
Sum represented by a penny rate	.....	£590

VITAL STATISTICS

	Total	Male	Female
Number of live births (legitimate)	272	149	123
Number of live births (illegitimate)	7	3	4
Birth Rate of Estimated Population	14.71		
Number of still births (legitimate)	9	5	4
Number of still births (illegitimate)	2	—	2

Still birth rate 39.4 per 1,000 births, and 0.57 per 1,000 estimated population.

Number of deaths : 121 males, 101 females, 222 total.

Death rate estimated resident population	11.70 per 1,000
Deaths from Puerperal Sepsis	Nil
Deaths from Puerperal causes	Nil

INFANTILE MORTALITY RATE

All infants per 1,000 live births	28.6
Number of deaths from Measles (all ages)	Nil
Number of deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	Nil
Number of deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	Nil

COMPARATIVE STATISTICS

Table 1 shows the Birth and Death Rates for the past 10 years in England and Wales, Glamorgan and Penarth.

TABLE 1.

Year	BIRTHS			DEATHS		
	BIRTH RATE PER 1,000 POPULATION			UNDER 1 YEAR		
	Number	Penarth	England and Wales	Number	Infantile Mortality Rate per 1,000 Births Registered	At ALL AGES
1946	312	18.7	19.1	10	32	215
1947	377	21.8	20.5	16	42	224
1948	312	17.5	17.9	7	22	208
1949	292	16.2	16.7	8	27	213
1950	286	15.5	15.8	7	24	240
1951	300	16.3	15.5	8	26	263
1952	266	14.4	15.3	8	30	239
1953	317	16.9	15.5	3	9	221
1954	267	14.1	15.2	5	18	237
1955	279	14.7	15.0	8	28	222
						11.7

Table II shows the number of Births and the Infantile Mortality Rate for the County and District of Glamorgan during 1955.

TABLE II.

District	Number of Births	Deaths under 1 year	Rate per 1,000 Births
Administrative County of Glamorgan	11,137	374	33.5
Aberdare	551	18	32.6
Barry	708	19	26.8
Bridgend	250	4	16.0
Caerphilly	668	24	35.9
Cowbridge	15	2	133.3
Gelligaer	672	33	49.1
Glyncorrwg	182	8	43.9
Llwchwr	322	10	31.0
Maesteg	363	16	44.0
Mountain Ash	465	17	36.5
Neath Borough	397	16	40.3
Ogmore and Garw	329	7	21.2
Penarth	279	8	28.6
Pontypridd	523	20	38.2
Porthcawl	148	6	40.5
Port Talbot Borough	877	30	34.2
Rhondda	1,487	48	32.2
TOTAL FOR DISTRICT	8,236	286	34.7

CAUSES OF DEATH DURING 1955

Cause of Death		Male	Female
1.	Tuberculosis (Respiratory)	2	2
2.	Tuberculosis (Other)	—	—
3.	Syphilitic disease	—	—
4.	Diphtheria	—	—
5.	Whooping Cough	—	—
6.	Meningococcal Infections	—	—
7.	Acute poliomyelitis	—	—
8.	Measles	1	—
9.	Other infective and parasitic diseases	—	—
10.	Malignant neoplasm, stomach	3	5
11.	Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	6	—
12.	Malignant neoplasm, breast	—	3
13.	Malignant neoplasm, uterus	—	—
14.	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	9	4
15.	Leukaemia, aleukaemia	—	—
16.	Diabetes	—	2
17.	Vascular lesions of nervous system	11	19
18.	Coronary disease, angina	33	13
19.	Hypertension with heart disease	7	8
20.	Other heart diseases	9	16
21.	Other circulatory diseases	6	5
22.	Influenza	1	1
23.	Pneumonia	3	2
24.	Bronchitis	17	6
25.	Other diseases of the respiratory system	1	1
26.	Ulcer of the stomach and the duodenum	2	1
27.	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	1	—
28.	Nephritis and nephrosis	—	—
29.	Hyperplasia of prostate	—	—
30.	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	—	—
31.	Congenital malformations	1	1
32.	Other defined and ill defined diseases	7	11
33.	Motor vehicle accidents	1	—
34.	All other accidents	—	1
35.	Suicide	—	—
36.	Homicide and operations of war	—	—
All Causes....		121	101
Total		222	

CAUSES OF INFANT DEATHS AT VARIOUS AGES, DURING 1955

Diseases	Hrs. 24	Weeks				To't 1st. M'h.	Months				Total
		1	2	3	4		1-3	3-6	6-9	9-12	
Convulsions	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	1
Atelectosis of Lung,	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Prematurity	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Spina Bifida	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
Meningitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
Spina Bifida	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Meconium	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Ileus Mucosis	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Broncho	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	2
Pneumonia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Anoxia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Prematurity	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Total	-	3	-	-	1	4	1	2	1	-	4

TABLE SHOWING AGEING OF POPULATION

No. of Deaths at Ages	Year 1944	Year 1945	Year 1954	Year 1955
65 and over	52	59	59	60
75 and over	82	77	105	82
Total	134	136	164	142

VACCINATION AND IMMUNISATION

Under the National Health Service Act 1946, arrangements for the above became the responsibility of the Glamorgan County Council and these procedures have been carried out at the Maternity and Child Welfare Clinics, schools, and by general Medical Practitioners.

The following are the figures for Penarth during the year :—

Diphtheria Immunisation	106
Vaccination against Smallpox	59
Vaccination against Tuberculosis (B.C.G.) (13 year old school children)	62

The following shows the incidence of Diphtheria since 1947 :—

Year	No. of Cases	No. of Deaths
1937	113	4
1938	65	2
1939	91	2
1940	23	3
1941	Nil	Nil
1942	5	Nil
1943	2	Nil
1944	5	1
1945	2	Nil
1946	2	Nil
1947	5	1
1948	Nil	Nil
1949	Nil	Nil
1950	Nil	Nil
1951	Nil	Nil
1952	Nil	Nil
1953	Nil	Nil
1954	Nil	Nil
1955	Nil	Nil

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Cases.

During the year the following cases were notified.

Pneumonia	16	including – from Llandough Hospital			
Scarlet Fever	11	“	2	“	“
Erysipelas	1	“	–	“	“
Food Poisoning	21	“	6	“	“
Whooping Cough	13	“	–	“	“
Measles	592	“	23	“	“
Meningococcal Infection	3	“	2	“	“
Dysentery	38	“	21	“	“
Paratyphoid Fever	6	“	6	“	“
Malaria	1	“	1	“	“
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	“	–	“	“
Poliomyelitis—					
Paralytic	1	“	–	“	“
Non-Paralytic	4	“	–	“	“

Of the above cases of Infectious Diseases the undermentioned were admitted to Isolation Hospitals

Scarlet Fever	4
Measles	1
Meningococcal Infection	1
Pneumonia	5
Poliomyelitis—Paralytic	1
—Non-Paralytic	4

LABORATORY FACILITIES

The following pathological and bacteriological examinations were made at the County Public Health Laboratory :—

Throat Swabs	5
Faeces? Dysentery	147
Faeces? Food Poisoning	58
Faeces? Paratyphoid	3
Milk	31
Water	5

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS)

DISEASES	All Ages	Un- der 1	1 to 2	3 to 4	5 to 9	10 to 14	15 to 24	25 to 44	45 to 64	Over 65 yrs.	(1)	(2)	(3)
Pneumonia ...	16	—	—	1	2	—	—	4	6	3	—	11	5
Whooping Cough ...	13	1	1	3	8	—	—	—	—	—	—	13	—
Measles ...	592	21	109	161	293	4	4	—	—	—	23	568	1
Meningococcal Infection ...	3	2	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	1
Scarlet Fever ...	11	—	1	3	5	—	—	2	—	—	2	5	4
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—
Dysentery ...	38	6	7	2	13	5	1	3	1	—	21	17	—
Erysipelas ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—
Acute Encephalitis ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Post Infectious...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Poliomyelitis (Paralytic) ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Poliomyelitis (Non-paralytic) ...	4	—	—	1	1	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	4
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Smallpox ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Malaria ...	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Food Poisoning ...	—	2	1	3	5	3	1	4	2	—	1	15	—
Enteric or Typhoid Fever ...	21	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	6	—	—
(Excluding Paratyphoid)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Paratyphoid Fever ...	6	—	—	2	2	2	—	—	—	—	6	—	—
TOTALS ...	708	32	120	177	329	15	6	16	9	4	61	631	16

The figures shown under (1), (2), (3) represent the following :—

- (1) Notified by Llandough Hospital.
- (2) Cases treated at home.
- (3) Cases admitted to hospital.

TUBERCULOSIS

The Chest Physician, Cardiff, Dr. S. H. Graham has kindly compiled the following table in connection with the treatment of tuberculosis during the year 1955. The figures in parentheses denotes the corresponding cases for the year 1954.

Number of new cases seen	(288)	170
Number found to be suffering from Pulmonary Tuberculosis	(12)	4
Number found to be suffering from Non-pulmonary Tuberculosis	(1)	1
Number with no evidence of Tuberculosis	(252)	156
Number still under observation	(23)	9

Age Period	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—14	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15—24	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
25—44	1	—	1	1	1	—	—	—
45—64	2	2	—	1	1	—	—	—
65 & Over	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Age Unkwn	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	4	2	2	2	3	—	—	—
Total	6		4		3		—	

TUBERCULOSIS NOTIFICATIONS

1940 - 1955

Year	No. Notified Pulmonary	No. Notified Non Pulmonary	Total	Deaths Recorded Total
1940	17	7	24	9
1941	6	9	15	10
1942	17	2	19	8
1943	15	7	22	8
1944	19	6	25	8
1945	10	3	13	6
1946	15	5	20	6
1947	8	3	11	6
1948	24	2	26	6
1949	16	6	22	6
1950	18	3	21	4
1951	11	5	16	10
1952	20	1	24	2
1953	23	5	25	2
1954	14	3	17	3
1955	6	4	10	3

DISINFECTION

Disinfection of Clothing, Bedding, etc., where necessary is carried out by arrangement with the Cardiff Health Authorities.

SWIMMING BATHS

Chemical and Bacteriological samples of the Swimming Bath Water were examined at the County and Public Health Laboratory and found to be satisfactory.

The degree of Chlorination of the water is frequently and quickly checked by a simple colorimetric method by the Baths Superintendent. The "turn-over-period" of the Bath water when necessary can be reduced to under 4 hours, which is regarded as satisfactory.

SCHOOLS

Situated in the District are the following schools :—

Penarth County Grammar School.

Albert Road Secondary School (Girls).

Albert Road (Junior & Infants) Mixed.

Cogan Secondary School (Boys)

Cogan School (Junior & Infants) Mixed.

Victoria School (Junior & Infants) Mixed.

Penarth C. of E. School.

Penarth R.C. School.

Fairfield Primary School.

All the schools are provided with a constant supply of pure water, good drainage and sanitary fittings, urinals, etc., which are flushed with automatic tanks.

VERMINOUS INFESTATION

Disinfestation of verminous houses is carried out by the use of Insecticides containing 5 per cent of D.D.T. and owing to the high efficiency of the treatment it is only very occasionally that re-treatment is necessary. During the year 114 rooms were treated.

SUPERVISION AND INSPECTION OF FOOD SUPPLIES

Milk.

The 17 Purveyors of milk in the district are made up as follows :

Producers	4
Producer/Retailers	3
Other Retailers	8
Non-resident Retailers	6

Close supervision was maintained by the Inspectors on Milk Distributors and all dairy premises (other than dairy farms).

Designated Milk.

Number of Samples	Number Satisfactory	Number Unsatisfactory
21	21	Nil

Undesignated Milk.

Number of Samples	Number Satisfactory	Number Unsatisfactory
3	3	Nil

Samples tested for the presence of Tubercle Bacilli.

Number of Samples	Number Satisfactory	Number Unsatisfactory
7	6	1

There are six farms in the district, the cowsheds of which are fitted with modern drinking bowls for each cow, and are served by a constant water supply.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

Water Supply.

The district is within the area of supply of the City of Cardiff, and receives a constant service of upland surface water from the Brecknock Beacons.

By arrangement with the County Council samples are taken to the Cardiff and County Public Health Laboratory for chemical and bacteriological examination.

The number of samples collected from various points by the Sanitary Inspectors for bacteriological and chemical analysis are set out hereunder :—

Type of Sample	Number Taken	Number Satisfactory	Number Unsatisfactory
Bacteriological	3	3	Nil
Chemical	3	3	Nil
Total	6	6	Nil

Number of Dwelling-houses served	Number of Population supplied from Public Water Mains	Number of Population supplied from Standpipe	Number of Persons supplied by piped supply from Well
5,443	18,970	Nil	Nil

RAINFALL

The rainfall for the year 1955 was 32.66 inches, and rain fell on 144 days.

One inch of rain or over fell in twenty-four hours on the 3rd June, when 1.38 inches were recorded.

Meat and Food Inspection.

There are 20 butchers' shops in the district, and all shops and vehicles to which the meat regulation apply were frequently inspected and surveyed.

During the year the following articles or food were, upon examination found to be unfit for human consumption and were voluntarily surrendered.

Apricots	116 tins	Marmalade	3 tins
Asparagus	4 tins	Mushrooms	3 tins
Apricot Pulp	2 tins	Minced Beef Loaf	48 tins
Apple Slices	1 tin	Macedoine	9 tins
Butter Beans	8 tins	Orange Juice	2 tins
Baked Beans	94 tins	Oranges	45 tins
Bacon	122 lb.	Pork	2 tins
Cheese	10 lb.	Peaches	127 tins
Cheese	6 pkts	Pears	144 tins
Coconut	13 lb.	Pork Luncheon	22 tins
Chocolate	10 blks	Peas	211 tins
Cherries	14 tins	Pineapple	103 tins
Condensed Milk	11 tins	Pineapple Juice	2 tins
Corned Beef	6 lb.	Pilchards	18 tins
Corned Beef	97 tins	Plums	19 tins
Crab	24 tins	Pork Butts	1 tin
Chopped Pork	6 tins	Raspberries	11 tins
Carrots	18 tins	Raspberry Jam	5 tins
Cream	7 tins	Rice	1 pkt.
Chicken	7 tins	Stewed Steak	69 tins
Crawfish	3 tins	Soup	53 tins
Evaporated Milk	180 tins	Salmon	19 tins
Fish Paste	6 jars	Sardines	7 tins
Fruit Salad	35 tins	Sauce	1 bottle
Grapefruit Juice	14 tins	Snax Picnic Packs	4 tins
Gooseberries	7 tins	Sweetened Mix	5 pkts.
Grapefruit	46 tins	Sponge Mix	113 pkts.
Ham	45 tins	Strawberries	27 tins
Ham & Chicken Galantine	1 jar	Sausages	3 tins
Herrings in Tomato	7 tins	Sausages	36½ lb.
Ham	9 lb.	Tomatoes	401 tins
Jellied Veal	5 tins	Tongue	22 tins
Jam	7 lb.	Tuna Fish	11 tins
Lard	12 pkts.	Tomato Juice	2 tins
Lobster	5 tins	Veal & Ham	2 tins
Luncheon Meat	73 tins	Vegetable Salad	2 tins

FOOD & DRUGS ACT, 1938-50

Food Analysis.

This work was carried out by the County Sanitary Inspectors and the following is their report of Samples taken in the district during 1955.

	Samples Taken	Unsatis- factory
Milk	77	—
Pork Chippolata Sausages	1	—
Beef Sausages	2	—
Blancmange Powder	3	—
Jam	2	—
Gelatine	2	—
Coffee and Chicory	2	—
Madeleine Mixture	6	5
Table Jelly	3	—
Ground Almonds	1	—
Mustard	1	—
Self Raising Flour	2	—
Dessert Powder	1	—
Salad Cream	1	—
Fish Paste	1	—
Gravy Browning	2	—
Pepper	3	—
Sponge Mixture	11	6
Mixed Spice	1	—
Mint in Vinegar	1	—
Vinegar	2	—
Canned Soup	1	—
Canned Milk Pudding	2	—
Butter	2	—
Margarine	2	—
Sultanas	1	—
Currants	2	—
Canned Fish	1	—
Orange Drink	3	—
Glauber Salts	1	—
Epsom Salts	1	—
Asprin	1	—
Vitamin Tablets, etc.	1	—
Ground Ginger	1	—
Shredded Beef Suet	2	—
Pie Filling	1	—
Custard Powder	2	—
Tea	1	—
Canned Tomatoes	1	—

Cake Mixture	10	8
Sandwich Spread	1	—
Sugar	1	—
Condensed Milk	1	—
Tomato Sauce	1	—
Bottled Pineapple	1	—
Pastry Mixture	1	—
Lemon Curd	1	—
Mustard	1	—
Mincemeat	1	—
Rasins	1	—
Curry Powder	1	—
Baking Powder	1	—
Tea Cake Mixture	1	—
Dessicated Coconut	1	—
Total	174	19

No. of Food Premises in area.

Grocers	46
Bakers and Confectioners	7
Fishmongers	4
Fish Shops (Fried)	5
Greengrocers	10
Pie Manufacturers	1
Butchers	20
Greengrocers and Grocers	9
Greengrocers and Fishmongers	9
Cafes	19
Crisp Potato Manufacturer	1
Total	131

No. of Food Premises Registered by Type of business under Section 14 of the Food and Drugs Act, and Milk & Dairies Regulations 1949.

For manufacture of Sausages, Potted, Pressed, Pickled or Preserved Foods	14
Number of	
Ice Cream Registrations	54
Dairies Registered	11
Total	79

No. of Inspections of Registered Food premises.

Meat Shops	199
Dairies	84
Ice Cream Premises	58
Total	341

Method of Disposal of Condemned Food.

By burying on refuse tip.

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 and 1948.

Regular visits of inspection have been made to factories in the district as shown in the following Tables :—

1.—Inspections.

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(1) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities ...	7	100	—	—
(2) Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ...	47	254	—	—
(3) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority † (excluding out-workers' premises)...	—	—	—	—
Total	54	354	—	—

2.—Cases in which defects were found.

Particulars	Found	Remedied	Referred		Number of Cases in which prose- cutions were instituted
			To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of Cleanliness (S1)	1	1	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S2) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable Temp. (S3)	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate Ventilation (S4)	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S6)	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S7)	—	—	—	—	—
(a) Insufficient ...	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	—	—	—	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Out- work)	—	—	—	—	—
Total	1	1	—	—	—

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE DISTRICT.

The following table shows the amount of routine inspection work performed by the Sanitary Inspectors :—

GENERAL SANITARY WORK.

Accumulations	.....	.....	48
Animals kept	...	.....	54
Cesspools	.....	.....	127
Closets, Water	...	.....	352
Complaints	.....	.....	698
Dirty and Verminous Premises	.....	.....	41
Drains—Existing	.....	.....	168
„ Obstructed	.....	.....	147
„ Relaid	.....	.....	21
„ Tested	.....	.....	26
Infectious Diseases	.....	.....	32
Interviews	.....	.....	818
Public and Private Conveniences	.....	.....	78
Rooms Disinfected	.....	.....	114
Rats and Mice	.....	.....	262
Schools	.....	.....	38
Smoke Observations	.....	.....	11
Smoke Special Visits	.....	.....	4
Miscellaneous Visits	.....	.....	627
Cinemas	.....	.....	32

HOUSING.

Houses Inspected	.....	269
Houses Re-inspected	.....	701

FACTORIES.

Factories—Mechanical	.....	254
„ Non-mechanical	.....	110
Bakehouses	.....	91
Laundries	.....	14

MEAT AND FOOD INSPECTIONS.

Meat and Food Inspections	329
Shops—Meat	199
Fish	61
General Provisions	275
Other	175
Food Preparation Premises	175
Dairies	84
Samples—Milk Bacteriological	31
Ice Cream Premises	58

HOUSING STATISTICS, 1955

	Local Authority	Private Licence
Number of Houses completed during 1955	15	57
Number of Houses partly completed	25	37
Number of families re-housed in New Council Houses		22

Inspections of Dwelling Houses during the Year.

- | | |
|--|-----|
| 1. Total number of dwelling houses inspected under the Public Health and Housing Acts | 269 |
| 2. Total number of dwellinghouses found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation | 240 |
| 3. Number of defective dwellings rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers | 151 |

4. Action under the Housing Act, 1936 :—

- | | |
|---|-----|
| (a) Number of Notices served— | |
| Preliminary | 77 |
| Statutory | 19 |
| (b) Number of dwellings which were rendered fit by owners after service of notice | 31 |
| (c) Number of dwellings which were rendered fit by Local Authority in default of owners | Nil |
| (d) Number of dwellings in respect of which demolition orders were made | 1 |
| (e) Number of dwellings in respect of which closing orders were made | Nil |

5. Action under the Public Health Act, 1936 :—

(a) Number of Notices served—	
Preliminary	163
Statutory	5
(b) Number of dwellings in which defects were remedied by owners after service of notice	120
(c) Number of dwellings in which defects were remedied by Local Authority in default of owner	Nil

NOTICES SERVED DURING THE YEAR.

Result of Service.

Number of complaints received and dealt with .. 698

Verbal intimation resulted in a considerable amount of work being executed without the need for further action.

Sanitary improvements were carried out and defects remedied under the supervision of the Sanitary Inspectors.

Exterior Works.

Dilapidated Building taken down	1
Roofs repaired and renewed	71
Rain water pipes and eaves gutters renewed and repaired	83
Walls—rebuilt or repaired	6
Yard area relaid	11
New Fascia Boards provided	5
Verandah Repaired	1
Boundary Walls repaired	6
Chimney Stack repaired	11
Exterior Cement Rendering Renewed	22
Defective Soffitt Repaired	3
Main Walls taken Down and Rebuilt	2
Lead Valley Provided	2
New Ventilation Provided	1
New Door Provided	3
Front Entrance Path relaid	2
New Steps provided	3
Defective Yard Gulley renewed	2
Soil Pipe repaired or renewed	1
Accumulation of refuse cleared	48
Walls Repointed	7
Front Entrance Porch Repaired	1
Steps Repaired and Renewed	4

Interior Works.

New Water Service Provided	1
Obstructed Chimney Flue cleared	3

Windows eased	16
Sink waste pipes repaired and renewed	2
Defective Hearth renewed	1
Door Furniture	1
New Bath-room and Water Closet Provided	2
Balluster rails to stair repaired	3
New Opening Fanlight Fixed	1
New Sinks provided	5
Walls replastered internally	89
Fire Grates repaired or renewed	23
Floors repaired or renewed	18
New Skirting Boards provided	20
Doors repaired or renewed	25
Chimney Flues repaired	3
Windows and Frames repaired	98
Wash Boiler repaired	1
Ceilings renewed or replastered	47
Stairs repaired	4
Water Taps repaired	4
Sashcords provided	70
Dampness in walls remedied	34
Defective Mantleshelves repaired and renewed	4
Walls Limewashed	1
New Water Closet Pan Seat provided	2
Wash Boiler removed	2
New Water Tap provided	1
Drainage.	
Cesspools cleared and cleansed	127
Drains repaired and relaid	21
Obstructed drains cleared and cleansed	147
Obstructed water closets cleared	2
New pedestal water closet pans provided	12
New flushing tanks provided	4
Flushing tanks repaired	2
Obstructed Sink waste cleared	1
Water Closet Compartment taken down	1
Waste pipes repaired	1
New Waste Channel provided	2
Defective Joint between Flush Pipe and Water Closet renewed	5
Flooded Cellar cleared	1
New Manhole provided	2
New Grid provided to Yard Gulley	2
New Gulley provided	2
New Flush Pipes provided	3

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949.

The following shows the amount of routine work carried out and the results achieved.

Number of visits to rat infested premises	.....	2,547
Number of reservoir infestations found	.....	Nil
Number of major infestations found	.....	Nil
Number of minor Infestations found	.....	262
Number of complaints dealt with	.....	262

Surface Campaign.

The Department received 262 complaints of premises infested with rats and mice and these complaints together with routine work resulted in 2,547 visits of inspection being made. The premises visited included dwelling houses, shops, factories, and schools. Routine visits were also made to farms and refuse tips.

Sewer Campaign.

During the year, two maintenance treatments were carried out for the destruction of rats in the sewers and in addition a Special Sewer Treatment was undertaken in conjunction with the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries in a small separate section of the sewers in the North Ward. This treatment was in the nature of an experiment in an endeavour to reduce a continual high sewer infestation in this part of the town.

Prior to this experiment, direct baiting with damp sausage rusk and 10% of Zinc Phosphide had been carried out at quarterly intervals for 15 months. During this time the rat population as reflected by numbers of infested manholes showed no change at all.

The sewer section taken (known as Section A.) is as far as is known a "Self contained System" and discharges into the sea. It consists partly of brick culverts of size 3 ft. x 2 ft. and partly of 12 inch pipes. This system has 31 manholes including six side entrances.

The procedure now adopted was first day, poison all baitable manholes with 4 oz. quantities of damp sausage rusk and 1% Sodium Flouroacetate, second day, record the bait takes.

Test Baits of damp wheat were laid on three occasions before and after the first treatment and before the fourth treatment. The takes of the test baits were recorded 48 hours after being laid.

The results of the complete treatment were as follows :—

1. On all occasions the amount of poison bait eaten at the manholes was extremely small. In many cases "No takes" could be detected and a "No Take" would have been recorded but for the presence of rat bodies by the bait.
2. It is almost certain that a high kill was achieved at each treatment. The evidence for this is based on the Post baiting after the first treatment, the number of bodies seen at the manholes and also a marked lessening off of the number of surface complaints in the area.
3. It is almost equally as certain however that a certain proportion of the rat population did not find the Poison bait (although it was left down in the manholes each time). At each treatment the level of the infestation appeared to be about the same.
4. As far as could be ascertained the system was self contained and it is unlikely that much, if any, re-invasion took place from outside. The general re-infestation of the system would be mainly due to the breeding and spreading of the survivors.
5. The general impression is that this method has cut down the size of the sewer infestation leading to fewer surface outbreaks but has done nothing towards completely ridding the system of rats. Test baiting with wheat has indicated that whilst each treatment results in drastic reduction in the rat population, rapid recovery takes place in the interval between treatments.

